

Northwest Highlands

Including Sutherland, Ben Wyvis, Wester Ross, The Cuillin, Glen Affric, Glen Shiel and Knoydart
Forecast valid from 00:00 on Wednesday 13 Jan 2021 until 23:59 on Thursday 14 Jan 2021

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 12 Jan 2021 at 14:24 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High, for snow slowly spreading from west Wednesday, but Low confidence for how quickly any milder air spreads in, for snow amounts and for how quickly things improve on Thursday. Also low confidence for events Friday, into Saturday.

Headline for Wednesday 13 Jan 2021: Dry, bright start, snow reaching west towards lunchtime then spreading slowly inland, though falling as rain over western coastal ranges at lower levels.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 13 Jan 2021

Blizzards
Medium Likelihood

Heavy Snow
High Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
No Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Low Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
							
Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Cloudy	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow
Precipitation probability							
00%	00%	00%	10%	30%	60%	70%	80%

Forecast for Wednesday 13 Jan 2021

Weather: Dry, cold and frosty overnight but high cloud increasing. Cloud slowly thickening and lowering from the southwest in the morning to bring snow to Cuillin, Knoydart and Glen Shiel by lunch time, though rain falling on lower slopes. Snow will slowly move northeast, with milder air not getting in from coastal ranges so snow falling even to lower levels and possibly rain onto frozen surfaces in places creating treacherous conditions. Snow reaching Ben Wyvis by dusk and continuing northeast in evening though not reaching Ben Hope until into Thursday. Snow will be heavy at times, with blizzard conditions over even the modest tops and a good deal of hill fog will form, this becoming extensive down to low levels in southwest.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 80% at first and likely through daylight hours in northeast with only scattered cloud above 800m, but almost nil once snow arrives elsewhere, with extensive cloud down to 450m

Visibility: Very good, falling poor as snow arrives, but very poor with heavy snow and almost nil in blizzard conditions.

Forecast for Wednesday 13 Jan 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	5/6 SE	11/13 SE	15/20 E	19/27 E	21/28 SE	20/27 E	19/26 E	18/24 SE	18/24 SE
900	5/6 SE	11/13 SE	15/20 E	19/27 E	21/28 SE	20/27 E	18/25 E	17/23 SE	17/23 SE
600	4/5 SE	9/11 SE	13/18 E	17/25 E	18/26 SE	17/24 E	16/23 E	14/20 SE	11/17 SE
300	2/5 E	6/11 E	10/17 E	12/21 E	12/22 E	12/21 E	10/19 E	8/16 E	5/13 SE
Glen	4/5 E	9/13 E	13/18 E	14/21 E	14/21 E	14/20 E	13/19 E	10/15 E	6/10 SE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1000	-3/-6	-3/-8	-4/-10	-3/-11	-2/-10	-2/-9	-2/-9	-2/-8	-2/-8
900	-2/-6	-3/-8	-3/-9	-3/-10	-2/-9	-2/-8	-2/-8	-1/-7	-1/-7
600	-0/-3	-0/-4	-1/-6	-0/-6	1/-5	1/-5	1/-5	1/-4	1/-4
300	-2/-3	-1/-4	-1/-5	-0/-5	0/-5	0/-5	0/-4	1/-3	1/-2
Glen	2/0	2/-1	2/-2	3/-2	3/-1	3/-1	4/-1	4/0	4/2
Freezing Level*	300m	200m	200m	200m	300m	300m	600m	800m	800m

*Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View

Icy and a marked wind chill, with snow and blizzard conditions slowly spreading inland.

Forecast for Thursday 14 Jan 2021

Weather: Snow gradually turning to rain below 600m before clearing through the morning, then a drier and brighter afternoon, but perhaps a few snow showers onto northern and western parts.

Maximum wind: Southeast 20mph in east at first becoming northwest 25 gust 35mph in morning but falling light and variable by the evening

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Almost nil at first, but chance around 70% by the afternoon with well broken cloud over the tops, but occasionally down to 500m in northwest later.

Visibility: Poor or very poor becoming mainly good by the afternoon.

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 2 to 4 C, but zero C later

At 800m: Zero C

Freezing level: 800m (with layers below warming out a bit), perhaps rising to 1200m for a time, then falling to 500m again.